

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6619

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 2828

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, WHO
SUBJECT: 30TH WHO ASSEMBLY: CHECK LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS

REF: GENEVA 2769

SUMMARY: GENEVA' 2769 PRESENTED THE MISSION'S VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO WHAT WE BELIEVE WILL BE THE CENTRAL DECISION TO BE MADE AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR--THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF WHO. LEAVING ASIDE TECHNICAL BUSINESS THAT WILL BE BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESENT CABLE IS A CHECK-LIST OF OTHER AGENDA ITEMS WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. BEFORE PRESENTING AN AGENDA CHECK LIST, THE MISSION WOULD LIKE TO DRAW WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT, WITH JUST OVER TWO WEEKS TO GO UNTIL THE ASSEMBLY, THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS IN SERIES "A30" (NEARLY HALF) HAVE NOT YET BEEN ISSUED: 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 27, 29, 30, 31. THE REASON FOR THIS MAY BE THE SHORTNESS OF TIME GIVEN THE SECRETARIAT TO DO ITS WORK BETWEEN THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE MAY ASSEMBLY. WHATEVER THE REASON, THE EFFECT INEVITABLY IS TO DIMINISH THE ABILITY OF MEMBER
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GOVERNMENTS TO GIVE ISSUES THE KIND OF THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION THAT THEY MERIT. TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION, WE RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEET IN NOVEMBER SO AS TO ALLOW THE SECRETARIAT A FULL SIX MONTHS TO PREPARE FOR THE PLENNARY ASSEMBLY.

2. THE FOLLOWING CHECK-LIST IS KEYED TO THE PRO-
VISIONAL AGENDA OF THE ASSEMBLY, DOCUMENT A30/1
DATED MARCH 2, 1977:

ITEM 1.2 THROUGH 1.9 - METHOD OF WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY
AND EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSEMBLY:
CHARGE IS HOSTING LUNCH FOR MAHLER AND RANKING WHO
OFFICIALS ON APRIL 20; MISSION PLANS TO REPORT
AND COMMENT ON THESE AGENDA ITEMS ON THE LIGHT OF
THAT DISCUSSION.

ITEM 2.2 - PROGRAM BUDGET POLICY: UNDER THIS ITEM
THE CENTRAL DECISION OF THIS YEAR'S ASSEMBLY WILL
BE MADE TO APPROVE WHO'S NEW DIRECTION. THE MISSION
DISCUSSED IN GENEVA 2769 OUR CONCERNS WITH RESPECT
TO THE FUTURE IMPLICATIONS THIS NEW ORIENTATION HAS
FOR U.S. INTERESTS. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE CONCERNS,
WE THINK WASHINGTON MIGHT CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY
OF INTRODUCING AN ADDITIONAL OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH TO
THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN EB 59.R9 WHICH
WOULD PREPARE THE WAY FOR EFFECTIVE EXTERNAL EVALUATION
OF WHO PROGRAMS AND EXPENDITURES. CONSIDERATION
MIGHT ALSO BE GIVEN TO SOME WAY OF ASSURING THE
UNIVERSALLY RECRUITED COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL
SECRETARIATS AS THOSE BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT
FOCI FOR DECISION-MAKING.

ITEM 2.3 - BUDGET PROGRAM FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS
1978 AND 1979: THE ASSEMBLY WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO
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ADOPT A \$165 MILLION BUDGET FOR 1978. THIS REPRESENTS
AN INCREASE OF 12.1 PERCENT. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
TOLD THE WHO GENEVA GROUP MEETING DURING THE
JANUARY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD THAT SUCH AN
INCREASE WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. THIS
ITEM IS IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF SETTING THE STAGE FOR
WHATEVER WE WISH TO DO LATER WITH RESPECT TO THE
1980-81 BUDGET. MORE IMPORTANTLY, GIVEN PRESENT
CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES AND OUR DESIRE TO RESTRAIN
BUDGETARY GROWTH, IT SEEMS TO US IMPORTANT THAT WE
NOT LET THIS ITEM PASS WITHOUT MAKING OUR FEELINGS
KNOWN ABOUT SUCH A LARGE INCREASE.

THE ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE BEFORE IT, UNDER THIS
ITEM, A REPORT ON PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR THE
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD NEXT YEAR
IN THE USSR (EB59.R16). GETTING THIS CONFERENCE TO BE
HELD IN THE USSR INSTEAD OF COSTA RICA REPRESENTED A
DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH FOR THE SOVIETS.

ITEM 2.4 - REVIEW OF SPECIFIC TECHNICAL MATTERS:
MISSION WOULD NOT PRESUMET TO COMMENT ON THE PROGRAMMATIC
CONTENT OF THE TECHNICAL PORTION OF THE ASSEMBLY'S
WORK. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MAYNES IN THE MARCH 29-30 MEETING OF THE
GENEVA GROUP THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER A "PAUSE FOR
CONSOLIDATION" IN EACH OF THE MAJOR SPECIALISED AGENCIES,
INCLUDING WHO, WE BELIEVE THAT U.S. SUPPORT FOR
THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL PROGRAMS UNDER THIS ITEM MUST
BE ARTICULATED WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF BUDGETARY RESTRAINT.
THE POSITION WE TOOK AND ASKED OTHERS TO CONSIDER AT
THE GENEVA GROUP WAS THAT REAL GROWTH IN HIGH PRIORITY
PROGRAMS MUST BE FUNDED THROUGH REAL SAVINGS IN LOWER
PRIORITY PROGRAMS. GIVEN OUR CONCERNS ABOUT BUDGETARY
GROWTH, SUCH AS THOSE EXPRESSED IN THE RIBICOFF REPORT
AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE INITIATIVES WE HAVE TAKEN IN
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THE GENEVA GROUP TO GALVANIZE MAJOR DONNERS TO SUPPORT
OUR POSITION, WE BELIEVE IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT
THE U.S. DELEGATION COME TO THE ASSEMBLY WITH A
FIRM SET OF PRIORITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE TECHNICAL
ISSUES UNDER ITEM 2.4 AND CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS THAT
PROGRAMMATIC ADJUSTMENTS IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE ACCOM-
MODATED WITHOUT ANY REAL BUDGETARY GROWTH (AT LEAST
THROUGH THE 1980-81 BIENNium).

ITEM 3.2.3 - MEMBERS IN ARREARS (INVOCATION OF
ARTICLE 7): BOLIVIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, CHAD,
CAMBODIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GRENADA AND HAITI
ARE PRESENTLY IN ARREARS.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6620

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 2828

ITEM 3.2.4. - REPORT ON CASUAL INCOME AND THE ASSEMBLY SUSPENSE ACCOUNT: UNDER THIS ITEM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS RECOMMENDED THE UTILIZATION OF \$2.2 MILLION OF CASUAL INCOME TO HELP FINANCE THE 1978 BUDGET. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT, IF APPROVED, PART OF THIS WILL BE USED UNDER ITEM 3.18.6 TO PAY THE ASSESSMENT OF NAMIBIA.

ITEM 3.3 - SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR 1977: BASED ON THE JANUARY EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION AND VIEWPOINTS SINCE EXPRESSED BY THE WHO SECRETARIAT, APPARENTLY MAHLER DOES NOT PLAN TO PROPOSE A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR 1977.

ITEM 3.4 - SCALE OF ASSESSMENT FOR 1978: DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT THE PROPOSED SCALE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT A CHANGE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE ASSEMBLY TO ELIMINATE THE PER CAPITA LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENTS. THE QUESTION OF THE ASSESSMENT FOR THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM COMES UP UNDER SUB-ITEM 3.4.3. DOCUMENTATION ON THIS SUB-ITEM HAS NOT YET BEEN CIRCULATED.

ITEM 3.6 - PHASED EXTENSION OF THE USE OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE: THE QUESTION OF INTRODUCING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GERMAN LANGUAGE IN THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE WILL BE RAISED HERE. THERE HAS BEEN TALK BY SOME EAST AFRICANS, BUT NO SERIOUS PROPOSAL, OF RAISING THE QUESTION OF THE USE OF SWAHILI IN WHO. BEYOND THIS, IT SEEMS TO US THAT WE SHOULD EXPECT FURTHER LANGUAGE PRESSURES ALONG WITH REGIONALIZATION, AND BELIEVE THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE LOOKED AT CAREFULLY IN DEVELOPING THE U.S. POSITION.

ITEM 3.10 - DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM BUDGETING AND MANAGEMENT OF WHO'S RESOURCES AT COUNTRY LEVEL: ASSEMBLY DOCUMENTS ARE NOT YET FULLY AVAILABLE. RESOLUTION EB59.R50 ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN JANUARY (WITH ONLY CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE USSR OPPOSING) CALLS FOR EXTENDING TO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL THE WHO PRINCIPLES OF A PROGRAM-ORIENTED APPROACH TO

PLANNING, BUDGETING AND MANAGEMENT (ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 25.23). THE EFFECTS OF THIS BUDGETING PROCEDURE WOULD BE TO BUILD TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES ON BROAD PROGRAM LINES RATHER THAN ON A PROJECT BASIS. THIS PROPOSAL MAY BE SEEN AS AN ADDITIONAL PIECE OF MAHLER'S OVERALL "POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION" (REFTEL).

ITEM 3.12 - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: MISSIONS THOUGHTS ON HOW THIS SUBJECT MIGHT BE TREATED FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

ITEM 3.14 - HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST: PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR HANDLING ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES IN THE ASSEMBLY ARE BEING REPORTED IN SEPTTELS.

ITEM 3.16 - REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: THE EXECUTIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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BOARD HAS PROPOSED THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, ITS MEMBERS TRAVEL TOURIST CLASS INSTEAD OF FIRST CLASS BEGINNING IN 1978. (MISSION QUESTIONS EXCEPTION BEING MADE FOR CHAIRMAN.) IT ALSO PROPOSED TO INCREASE BY ONE DAY THE NUMBER OF DAYS' PER DIEM WHICH WOULD BE ALLOWED BEFORE A MEETING FOR TRAVEL.

ITEM 3.17 - REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE TRAVEL OF THE ONE DELEGATE FROM EACH MEMBER STATE TO THE ASSEMBLY THAT IS CURRENTLY FUNDED BY THE WHO SHOULD BE TOURIST CLASS INSTEAD OF FIRST CLASS, BEGINNING IN 1978. WHILE THIS WOULD AFFECT SOME DECREASE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THERE IS A QUESTION WHETHER ANY OF THIS IS AN APPROPRIATE USE OF COMMON FUNDS. WE THINK WE SHOULD GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO A STRATEGY AIMED AT ESTABLISHING THE PRINCIPLE THAT TRAVEL OF SOVERIGN STATE REPRESENTATIVES OR OFFICIALS DESIGNEES TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS SHOULD BE PAID BY SOVERIGN STATES THEMSELVES.

ITEM 3.18.2 - ASSISTANCE TO NEWLY INDEPENDENT AND EMERGING STATES IN AFRICA: THE PERENNIAL ISSUE OF ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL LIBERATIONS MOVEMENTS COULD ARISE UNDER THIS ITEM, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT ADDRESSED IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD'S PROPOSED RESOLUTION WHICH BE BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY (EB59.R40). THIS RESOLUTION

ITSELF MERELY REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO CONTINUE HIS ASSISTANCE EFFORTS TO NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNDP.

ITEM 3.18.3 - SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM: WE UNDER-CONFIDENTIAL

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STAND FROM THE SECRETARIAT THAT IT IS MAHLER'S INTENTION TO USE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S DEVELOPMENT FUND HEREFTER TO ASSIST DEVELOPING MEMBER STATES IN GENERAL, WITH NO EMPHASIS (AS LAST YEAR) ON THESE PARTICULAR THREE COUNTRIES.

ITEM 3.18.5 - CONTINUATION OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT: WHO APPARENTLY DOES NOT HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM WITH THE JIS STATUTES. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON THE APPROACH THAT THE WHO SECRETARIAT IS TAKING.

ITEM 3.18.6 - MEMBERSHIP AND ASSESSMENT OF NAMIBIA: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE ASSEMBLY ADOPT A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD EXEMPT NAMIBIA, AND ASSOCIATE MEMBER SINCE 1974, FROM PAYMENT OF ITS ASSESSMENT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT BECOMES A FULL MEMBER. DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS WOULD BE IN LINE WITH A THIRTY-FIRST UNGA RESOLUTION REQUESTING SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO CONSIDER DOING THIS.

ITEM 3.19 - UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND: GIVEN THE WAY THINGS EVENTUATED AT THE 31ST UNGA ON THE UN JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND (ITEM 3.19), THIS SUBJECT COULD PROVE CONTROVERSIAL, IN THE BACKGROUND IF NOT IN THE FOREGROUND, AT THIS ASSEMBLY. SORENSON

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